

Diorama of the Pattagansett Marshes Preserve painstakingly assembled by artist Raymond de Lucia is now on display at the Thames Science Center, New London, Connecticut—see story inside. (photo by Roger Riley)

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THE CONSERVANCY AS COLLEAGUE

The last half decade of Conservancy activity has been marked by a slow and studied shift from protecting locally valuable open space toward protecting the most critical natural areas, the most unusual habitats, the most threatened of vanishing species in the state. The shift has required a reallocation of our scarce resources, human and financial, toward identifying, protecting, and managing these areas. Narrowing the focus has been difficult, for doing so has meant we have had to forfeit opportunities to acquire some beautiful lands of local environmental significance.

Enter the Land Trust Service Bureau (LTSB), unique to Connecticut, and among the Conservancy's newest tools for preservation. The job of the Bureau is to help local land trusts, of which there are 77 in Connecticut. Each works as a "mini-Conservancy," acquiring land through private action. In aggregate they hold 12,000 acres. As federal and state support for land acquisition diminishes, the role of the land trusts and the Conservancy—working as colleagues—will increase.

One of the most difficult parts of my job is to explain to prospective donors of land that notwithstanding contributions of time and money by scores of selfless volunteers, the Conservancy is sometimes unable to accept gifts of land. With the inception of the Bureau, the chances

continued on page 2



FROM THE LAND

Spring/1981

Published for the members of
The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

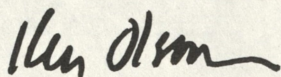
W. Kent Olson, *Executive Director*
Susan D. Cooley, *Associate Director*
Polly Wildermuth, *Office Manager and Editor*
Marjorie L. Eaton, *Secretary*
Suzanne Wilkins, *Land Trust Service Bureau, Director*

continued from page 1

greatly improve that we can continue to find qualified repositories for such gifts. The Bureau uses many techniques developed by the Conservancy. When we refer a land donor to a land trust, we avail the trust of Conservancy expertise. If, for example, we transfer an existing Conservancy holding, we also transfer our ecological inventory of the property, existing master plans, and some staff support. In most cases, Conservancy volunteer stewards continue to donate their time to the new land-holding entity. Equally important, the Conservancy underwrites the transfer by serving as the legal reverter in the unlikely event that the land trust should fail, which has not yet happened.

The success of the Bureau depends upon the degree to which it strengthens the land trusts of Connecticut. In turn the Conservancy benefits by having an additional protection tool, by seeing Conservancy expertise used in other organizations, by reducing Conservancy overhead without diminishing the Chapter's moral and legal responsibilities to preserve land in perpetuity. Connecticut itself benefits as local land trusts are supported in their continuing efforts to preserve locally valuable natural lands.

Through the Land Trust Service Bureau, The Nature Conservancy has found 77 colleagues in preservation. We are pleased to join them in their work to conserve the state's natural heritage. No other Conservancy office has a Land Trust Service Bureau. We like to think we are on the cutting edge.



W. Kent Olson
Executive Director

... A COOPERATIVE EFFORT

The Land Trust Service Bureau, a project sponsored by The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter, offers a viable alternative for the preservation of locally significant open space land (see article above, "The Conservancy as Colleague"). The LTSB has been instrumental in facilitating the following transfers to three deserving land trusts:

The Gus Purdy Preserve, a 2.5-acre parcel in north Greenwich, to the Greenwich Land Trust; the Waldo Preserve, a 4-acre red maple swamp in North Stonington, to the Mashantucket Land Trust; and the Levonius easement, a 2.5-acre parcel along the Quinebaug River in Canterbury, to the Wyndham Land Trust.

COVER: PATTAGANSETT MARSHES

One prize Conservancy preserve has been immortalized at the Thames Science Center (TSC) in New London (see cover photo). A breathtakingly beautiful and painstakingly accurate diorama fills one wall of the TSC and illustrates the richness of wildlife at The Pattagansett Marshes in Niantic.

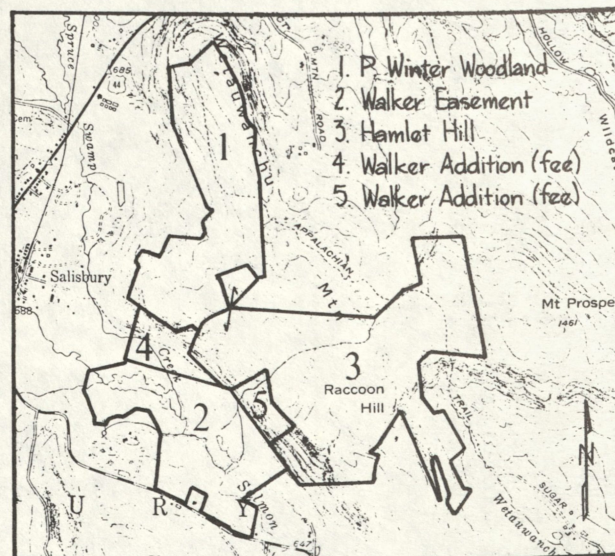
Raymond de Lucia, known for his masterful work at the American Museum of Natural History, has brilliantly fused artifacts from the real world (shells, marsh grasses, stuffed birds) with artificial models of plants and an extraordinary painted panoramic view of the marsh as viewed from Old Black Point Road.

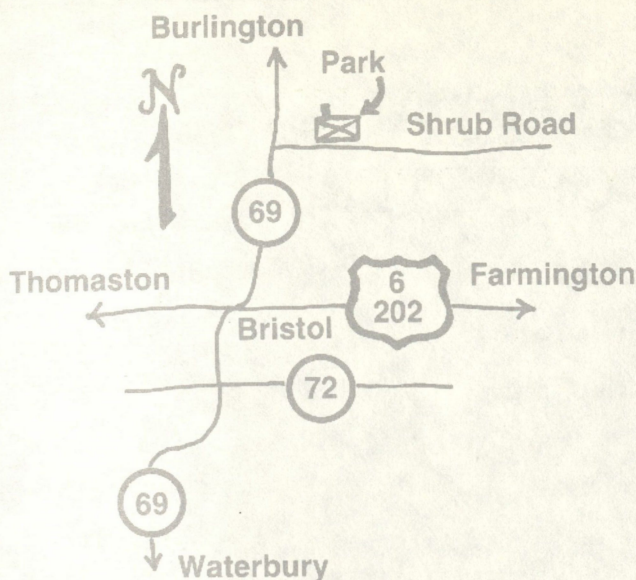
The construction of the diorama is based on Mr. de Lucia's own collections and helps to amplify the important on-going research being done by Connecticut College professors and students. For the past two summers they have investigated Pattagansett Marshes' history and the preserve's wealth of plant and animal life. The TSC is open for all to visit. Please call 442-0391 for details.

AN EVER-EXPANDING PRESERVE

Begun with a donation from Gustavus Pope in 1974, the 170-acre Patricia Winter Woodland (see 1 on map) was born. It is located on the western flank of Wetauwahchu Mountain in Salisbury. In 1978, Dorothy Walker gave a 128-acre conservation easement (2) on her meadows protecting Salmon Creek to the south of the preserve. The following year came the generous donation of 320 acres of forest land, the Hamlet Hill Tract (3), from John Mitchell, Henry Mitchell, Mary McClintock, and Agnes Forsyth.

The Appalachian Trail crosses both Patricia Winter Woodland and Hamlet Hill Preserve. As 1980 came to a close, Dorothy Walker again blessed TNC with 36 acres of a steep slope overlooking the meadows already protected. And as this newsletter goes to press, the Conservancy is gratefully accepting another 20 acres from this same dedicated conservationist.





SPRING HIKE AT BARNES NATURE PRESERVE

Come hike in central Connecticut on Saturday, May 30th. We'll meet in the parking lot of the Harry C. Barnes Nature Center off Shrub Road in Bristol (see map) at 10:30 a.m. The walk, lasting an hour and a half, will take us through a field, an orchard, woods, across a stream and up onto an esker, half of which has been mined. We'll return to the Center for lunch, so pack a picnic.

Please give us a call at 344-0716 to let us know if you can come—the more the merrier on this walk, but we would like to have enough leaders to keep our groups small. Please be advised: The Nature Center states that pets are not allowed, either on or off a leash.

Directions: From the junction of Rts. 6/202 and 69, go north on 69 for a little over 2 miles. Take a right on Shrub Road and proceed .3+ mile to the Nature Center's parking lot on left. (It takes about an hour to drive from Middletown.)

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Chapter is responsible for some 12,000 acres of natural land. We have a successful network of volunteer land stewards that watches over much of these lands owned in fee (about 9,000 acres), but very much need volunteers to tend to the rest.

We are looking for those of you among our membership who would be willing to visit and report on parcels of anywhere from 3 to 300 acres which we hold in easement or as reverter interest. It would require a walk every six months to make sure that the property is intact, untouched by wood thieves, or trail bikes, or hunters.

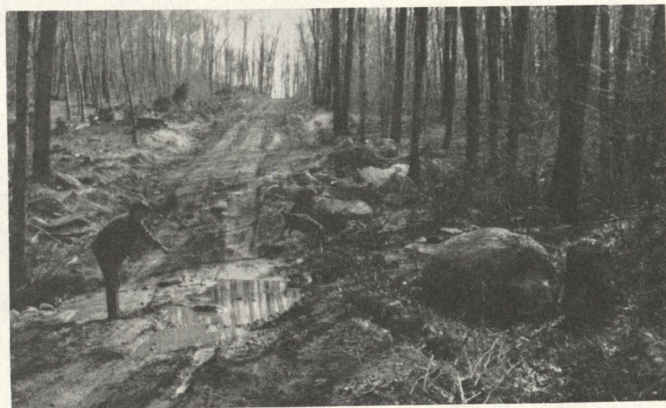
We will supply you with map, deed restrictions, short questionnaire or status report, and deadline date. You do the hiking and looking and photographing and reporting. If this sounds enjoyable, please send us a postcard with name, address and telephone number. We'll get back to you this spring.

LAND STEWARDS OF THE SEASON: TAINÉ MT. PRESERVE COMMITTEE

Since 1977, Taine Mt. Road has been the subject of controversy. A narrow track leading over Taine Mt. and through the heart of the Taine Mt. Preserve was uncere- moniously widened by a developer who had an option to buy land adjacent to our preserve (see photo).

The Conservancy argues that the road is abandoned and that the developer is trespassing. We have taken the developer to court, where the case is now pending.

The stewardship committee, led by Chairman Carl Sieracki, has rallied for the protection of Taine Mountain Preserve and has raised over \$3,000 to help cover legal costs. Carl, representing the Conservancy, has spent long hours at the Burlington selectmen's meetings and at those held by the Inland Wetlands Commission.



Associate Director Susan Cooley inspects damage to Taine Mt. Preserve. Suit has been brought to court.

A WALKING CONVENTION

When a delegation of forty outdoorsmen congregated on Dave Shoemaker's lawn in Scotland, February 28th, it meant business.

Ed Ruffleth, a life-long resident of Scotland, led the group down old carriage roads and along paths that he, as a member of the stewardship committee, planned and cleared. Little did he know that among this group strode enthusiasts of the democratic system.

No sooner did the group stop to consider a management option in an old field, than lively debate ensued. The hubbub aroused beast and bird (two raccoons were later observed hugging the trunk of a tree 30 feet off the ground) only ending when the majority solemnly swung for manipulation of the landscape in order to maintain diversity of habitat.

The delegation became stymied in another hot debate over whether or not to construct a bridge over Little River, and further discussion was tabled. But in between all the talk, these individualists took in a lot of fresh air and beautiful sights, made new friends, and got reacquainted with old pals.

Alas, it all ended a couple of hours later at the Shoemaker's, where, happily, Florence Maschka and a gang of stewardship committee members welcomed the walking convention with hot drink and doughnuts.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

welcomes all its members to the
21st ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10 A.M., Saturday, May 16th
in
Middletown, Connecticut

The 1981 annual meeting of The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter, will be held in Middletown, beginning with a brief business meeting in Room 58 of the Science Tower on the Wesleyan campus, the same building which houses the Chapter's office. Coffee, tea, and juice will be served. From there we shall proceed caravan-style to nearby Higby Mountain, for a walk on this lovely 200-acre Conservancy preserve donated in 1979 by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Houston. Higby Mountain is significant for its basalt escarpments and relict community of floral species found more commonly in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We should see many wildflowers in bloom.

Please bring a picnic lunch and wear sturdy shoes. The hike is all uphill and over fairly rough terrain. We'll enjoy our repast while taking in the magnificent views from the top of Higby Mountain.

The walk on Higby Mountain will take place rain or shine, so if you plan to hike, please dress appropriately. In case of severe weather, director Ken Olson will present a slide lecture on Alaska's Brooks Range.

Please R.S.V.P. by May 8th: 344-0716, 344-0532.

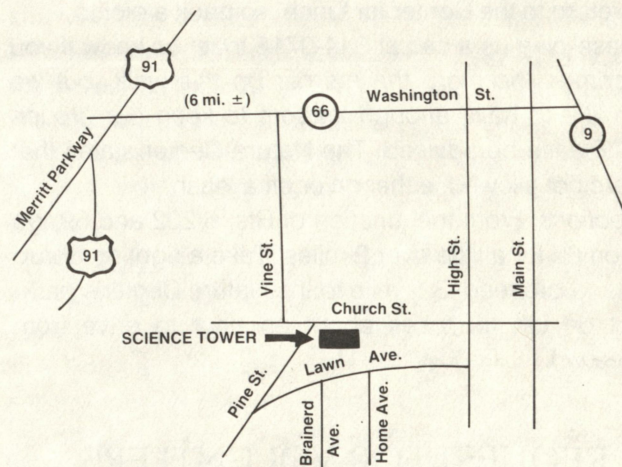
DIRECTIONS (see map):

From Hartford: Take I-91 south (west) to Rt. 9 south; turn right (west) off Rt. 9 onto Rt. 66 in Middletown.

From Coastal areas: Exit from I-95 to Rt. 9 north at Old Saybrook; turn left (west) off Rt. 9 onto Rt. 66 in Middletown.

From New Haven: Take I-91 north (east) to Rt. 66 east; proceed to Middletown.

For all of the above, take Rt. 66 to High Street, turn south, then right (west) onto Church Street. The Science Tower is a large, light-colored modern building at the end of the block on the left. We are meeting in Room 58 on the ground floor (one flight down from entry level).



MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Chapter is embarking in 1981 on its largest membership campaign to date with plans to send invitations to 25,000 people to join our crusade to preserve the finest of Connecticut's natural heritage. In 1980, a total of 330 conservation-minded individuals joined the Chapter as new members, swelling our ranks to over 4,000 strong. And we are hopeful for even better results in 1981.

You can help by talking with friends and family about the Conservancy's program and encouraging support for its land preservation efforts. Our acquisition priorities for this year include some of the largest and finest projects ever undertaken by the Chapter. A growing membership—and the continuing support of our present members—will be crucial to our success.

PRESERVE COMMITTEE MEMBER VISITS CHAPTER TRUSTEE MEETING

We wonder why we didn't think of it first! Dennis Collins of The Frederic C. Walcott Preserve Stewardship Committee asked to join a Chapter Trustee's meeting—just to see what was going on. It was that simple. And it has led to the resolution that the Board invite a member or two from local preserve stewardship committees to its quarterly meetings.

The committee member gets to see the Trustees at work and learns what issues are being debated; the Board, in turn, hears what is on a land steward's mind and learns of special, localized issues. We feel that this combination of volunteer talents will strengthen the Conservancy family.

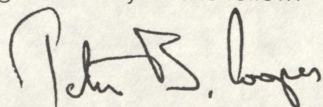
The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter 1980 Annual Report

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy saw 1980 close on a year of growth and success. The Chapter's fundraising efforts met with an unparalleled response as members and special "Acorn" contributors rallied to our Fall appeal for additional contributions toward the year's operating expenses. In addition, 330 new members and 36 new Acorns added their names to the 4,000 generous TNC supporters who care about conservation and the quality of life in Connecticut.

While still actively pursuing the Conservancy's three-pronged conservation approach of identification, acquisition and stewardship of significant natural areas, the Connecticut Chapter worked closely with various land trusts, local conservation groups and state agencies in the acquisition of key open space parcels.

Since the formation of the Land Trust Service Bureau in July, its widespread acceptance and subsequent funding successes have further reinforced the belief that many land preservation issues can best be solved by local citizens. It is our belief that concerned individuals must organize and take the lead in intelligently preserving our state's resources, and it is in the pursuit of effective ways to demonstrate this belief that the Connecticut Chapter devoted its energies in 1980 and will do so again in the years to follow.



Peter B. Cooper
Chairman

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter B. Cooper, <i>Chairman</i> Bethany	Alexander S. Gardner Greenwich
Peter Neill, <i>Vice Chairman</i> Stony Creek	Ann Gaylord Niantic
John A. Blum, <i>Treasurer</i> North Colebrook	Richard Goodwin New London
Prudence Cutler, <i>Secretary</i> Farmington	James Pepe Abington
Charles C. Abbott Pomfret Center	Thomas Siccama East Haven
Martha Briscoe Lakeville	Alden Taylor Farmington
Robert Chapman Weston	A. Lindsay Thomson West Hartford



Partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*).
Photograph courtesy of Duffy Schade.

STAFF

W. Kent Olson, *Executive Director*
Susan D. Cooley, *Associate Director*
Polly Wildermuth, *Office Manager*
Marjorie L. Eaton, *Secretary*
Suzanne Wilkins, *Land Trust Service Bureau Director*

STAFF

The Chapter's growth went on behind the scenes also, as dedicated and conscientious employees moved on to different challenges and were replaced by new people eager to devote their talents to further the goals of The Nature Conservancy.

After three years at the Chapter's helm, Evan Griswold tendered his resignation as executive director, and Ken Olson's acceptance of this position ended an extensive search by the Board of Trustees. Ken, who holds a master's degree in natural resources management from Yale University, came to us after six years with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Prior to Ken's appointment, Susan D. Cooley was acting director. More recently named associate director, Susan also continues with her responsibilities as stewardship director.

Office manager Janet Bechtel left in December in order to devote her time to the challenges of motherhood, leaving her position in the competent hands of Polly Wildermuth. Polly's expertise, acquired during her five years as an executive secretary at the Save-the-Redwoods League in San Francisco, enabled the transition of office managers to be made easily and efficiently.

Marjorie Eaton took over from Anna Barron as the Chapter's full-time secretary. Master plan coordinator Winky Wright left the Chapter with 50 master plans to her credit, the largest number completed by any Conservancy office.

The trustees and staff wish to thank everyone who served the Chapter during 1980, for their dedication and contribution to our success.





ACQUISITION

During 1980, the Chapter received generous land donations for addition to three of its existing preserves and assisted the Roxbury Land Trust in the acquisition of the 460-acre Mine Hill property, home of the endangered Indiana bat. The diversity of habitats acquired ranged from tidal salt marsh and estuary to steep-slope talus rock.

1. *Turtle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Old Saybrook and Essex.* An additional 1/13th undivided interest in this 90-acre preserve brings the Conservancy's ownership of this generous gift by former Governor and Mrs. Chester Bowles to 11/13ths.

2. *Lord's Cove Preserve, Lyme.* An additional 13 acres of land were the gifts of Mr. Valentine Chamberlain and his neighbor, Mrs. Leontine Harrower. This acquisition brings under protection the northerly extent of Lord's Cove's 143 acres of tidal wetlands.

3. *Patricia Winter Woodland, Salisbury.* A magnificent vista and wildlife area, Dorothy R. Walker's gift of 36 acres of steep slope overlooks her 1978 gift of a conservation easement on 128 acres of meadow flanking the Salmon Creek. The Conservancy's ownership of this significant stretch of land on Wetauwahchu Mountain now totals 654 acres.

STEWARDSHIP

Protection of The Nature Conservancy's 12,000 acres in Connecticut was assured through the active participation of the volunteer preserve stewardship committees. For the sixth successive year, local stewards worked closely with the summer interns to devise management plans for each preserve and descriptive inventories of the preserves' vegetation composition and distribution. Special wardens were used to patrol the popular preserves where the survival of fragile ecosystems depends on informed and careful use of the land. In an attempt to increase the level of understanding of the importance of nature areas, many committees sponsored "Saturday walks" through their preserves (our Fall canoe trip along the Connecticut River being a special favorite).

In addition to managing its own preserves, the Chapter broadened its stewardship efforts to include other organizations as well. An invertebrate study of the Pattagansett Marshes in East Lyme was undertaken in conjunction with Connecticut College and the Thames Science Center; and, in an effort to locate the habitat of the bog turtle which is in danger of extinction, The Nature Conservancy joined forces with the State Department of Environmental Protection.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following data is abstracted from our financial statement as of December 31, 1980:

ASSETS

Cash in Banks	\$ 25,427
Funds at National Office	18,122
Treasury Bills	27,919
Savings Certificates	95,230

FUND BALANCE \$166,698

Cash in Banks includes preserve savings as well as Chapter general savings. The financial data above presents fairly the assets and fund balance arising from cash transactions of The Nature Conservancy-Connecticut Chapter as of December 31, 1980, and the revenues collected and expenditures paid during the year then ended. A detailed financial statement including the accountant's report of our auditors, Ernst and Whinney, is available for your inspection at our offices.



Peter Cooper (left) presents Chapter White Oak Award to Annabelle Irving at the 1980 Annual Meeting.

AWARDS

Connecticut Chapter White Oak Awards are presented annually in praise of the outstanding accomplishments of our volunteers. The Board of Trustees and staff of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy have given the 1980 White Oak Award to: Annabelle Irving for her generous contribution to the preservation of the Iron Mountain Reservation in Kent and to herpetologist Michael Klemens for unstintingly giving of his time and expertise to study the distribution of reptiles and amphibians on Conservancy preserves.